

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 18-24, 2019

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Isaiah 55:1–9 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=138351066>).

Other readings are: Psalm 63:1–8; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9.

The theme is: Fed by the Glory.

Bruce Springsteen's song "Glory Days" captures the human longing for the extraordinary life, for something that affirms our worth. The people of Isaiah's time had the same longing, and – much like today – they thought it could be satisfied in the marketplace. The people are exiles in Babylon. The Babylonian marketplace was filled with the trappings of glory. The exiles were tempted by the marketplace of their captors, just as people are attracted to a "Prosperity Gospel" today. Being able to purchase the goods of the marketplace is often interpreted as a sign of God's favor and blessing; yet the cost is higher than one might imagine. To produce those goods, the earth and its people are often being exploited, and we adopt a consumer mentality. Isaiah warns the people that this kind of glory does not satisfy. Isaiah calls the people to return to their covenant relationship with God. It is God who "has glorified you" (verse 5). Note that this is not some future glory awaiting in the afterlife. Isaiah speaks in the past tense. God has glorified the exiles. It is up to them to claim that glory and live into it. It is a glory that does not fade. It does not come at others' expense. It is free and available to all. It satisfies the emptiness that people so desperately and unsuccessfully try to fill. It comes, not from the marketplace, but from the abundant love, generosity, and goodness of a just God.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

What are the things that have not satisfied in your life? Our culture encourages us to believe that glory can be found in the marketplace. What practices or relationships counter that message in your life?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 17:

Lent recognizes that we sometimes journey in the wilderness. Are you experiencing wilderness or uncertainty this Lent? If so, how?

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